

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 13-14, 35, and 37 have been amended. New claims 42-46 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Claims 21-34 were canceled in a response to restriction requirement mailed March 8, 2004. Therefore, claims 1-20 and 35-46 are currently pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 37 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, claim 37 has been amended to overcome the § 112 rejection.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-14, 16-20, 35, and 37-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SE 9800831 to Mekuria et al. (“Mekuria”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,215 to Dobson et al. (“Dobson”).

Mekuria relates to a communication device having a speech encoder and a speech decoder for retrieving and storing voice messages in a memory. The messages are stored in the memory according to a message format. The Office Action asserts that Mekuria teaches all aspects of the claimed invention except for “compressing the encoded signal using a lossless scheme.” However, the Examiner asserts that U.S. Patent No. 5,819,215 to Dobson et al. (“Dobson”) teaches this feature at Figure 2, the Abstract, and col. 12, lines 3-13.

Dobson discloses a compression method that utilizes a combination of both lossy and lossless compression to achieve significant compression while retaining very high subjective quality of a reconstructed or decompressed signal. A compression block is designed to reduce the number of bits needed to represent a digital audio data.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of

independent claim 1, namely, a code compression unit further comprising a demultiplexer, a lossless compression block and a lossy-compression block. While Mekuria discloses a speech encoder and a speech decoder for retrieving and storing voice messages in a memory, the Office Action asserts that Mekuria does not disclose “compressing the encoded signal using a lossless scheme.” In Dobson, a compression block is designed to reduce the number of bits needed to represent a digital audio signal, however, the compression block of Dobson does not disclose a demultiplexer, a lossless compression block and a lossy-compression block, as in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 distinguishes over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 6, and 9-12 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 4, 6, and 9-12 distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2, 4, 6, and 9-12 is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of dependent claim 2, namely, a code decompression unit further comprises a multiplexer, a lossless decompression block and a lossy-decompression block. The Office Action asserts that Mekuria does not disclose “compressing the encoded signal using a lossless scheme.” In Dobson, a decompression block can only reverse a lossless compression. The information eliminated in a lossy compression is not recovered. Thus, the decompression block of Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious a lossy-decompression block, as in claim 2. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 2 distinguishes over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 13 relates to a method for compressing a signal. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 13, namely, wherein a compression unit including a demultiplexer, a lossless compression block and a lossy-

compression block. While Mekuria discloses a speech encoder and a speech decoder for retrieving and storing voice messages in a memory, the Office Action asserts that Mekuria does not disclose “compressing the encoded signal using a lossless scheme.” In Dobson, a compression block is designed to reduce the number of bits needed to represent a digital audio signal, however, the compression block of Dobson does not disclose a demultiplexer, a lossless compression block and a lossy-compression block, as in claim 13. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 distinguishes over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 14 and 16-20 depend from and further restrict independent claim 13 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 13, dependent claims 14 and 16-20 distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 14 and 16-20 is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of dependent claim 14, namely, a decompression unit includes a multiplexer, a lossless decompression block and a lossy-decompression block. The Office Action asserts that Mekuria does not disclose “compressing the encoded signal using a lossless scheme.” In Dobson, a decompression block can only reverse a lossless compression. The information eliminated in a lossy compression is not recovered. Thus, the decompression block of Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious a lossy-decompression block, as in claim 14. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 14 distinguishes over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 35 relates to a method for decompressing a signal. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 35, namely, wherein a decompressing unit includes a multiplexer, a lossless decompression block and a lossy-decompression block. The Office Action asserts that Mekuria does not disclose “compressing the encoded signal using a lossless scheme.” In Dobson, a decompression block

can only reverse a lossless compression. The information eliminated in a lossy compression is not recovered. Thus, the decompression block of Dobson fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious a lossy-decompression block, as in claim 35. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 35 distinguishes over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 35 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 37-41 depend from and further restrict independent claim 35 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 35, dependent claims 37-41 distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 37-41 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 15, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mekuria in view of Dobson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,664,055 to Kroon (“Kroon”). Claims 3, 15, and 36 depend from and further restrict independent claims 1, 13, and 35, respectively and therefore also distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. In rejecting claims 3, 15, and 36, the Examiner has further applied Kroon. Kroon has been cited as teaching an apparatus and method of changing weighting factors and a tilt factor. Applicant respectfully submits that Kroon fails to cure the deficiencies of Mekuria and Dobson noted above with respect to independent claims 1, 13, and 35, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 3, 15, and 36 distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria, Dobson, and Kroon and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mekuria in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0103638 to Gao (“Gao”). Claims 5 and 17 depend from and further restrict independent claims 1 and 13, respectively and therefore also distinguish over Mekuria. In rejecting claims 5 and 17, the Examiner has further applied Gao. Gao has been cited as teaching an apparatus and method wherein a parameter of an encoded signal has high inter-frame redundancy to produce synthesized speech. Applicant respectfully submits that Gao fails to cure the deficiencies of Mekuria noted above with respect to independent claims 1 and 13, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims

5 and 17 distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria and Gao and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

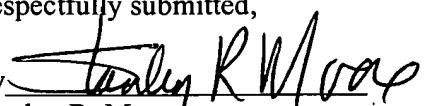
Claims 7-8, 19-20, and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mekuria in view of Dobson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,636 to Crupi et al. ("Crupi"). Claims 7-8, 19-20, and 40-41 depend from and further restrict independent claims 1, 13, and 35, respectively and therefore also distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria and Dobson. In rejecting claims 7-8, 19-20, and 19-20, the Examiner has further applied Crupi. Crupi has been cited as teaching an encoded signal being compressed to include fixed codebook indices. Applicant respectfully submits that Crupi fails to cure the deficiencies of Mekuria and Dobson noted above with respect to independent claims 1, 13, and 35, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 7-8, 19-20, and 40-41 distinguish over the cited combination of Mekuria, Dobson, and Crupi and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

New claims 42-44 depend from and further restrict independent claims 1. New claims 45-46 depend from and further restrict independent claim 35. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 35, respectively, new claims 42-46 also distinguish over the combination of references.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Stanley R. Moore
Registration No.: 26,958
JENKENS & GILCHRIST, A PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 855-4500
Attorneys For Applicant